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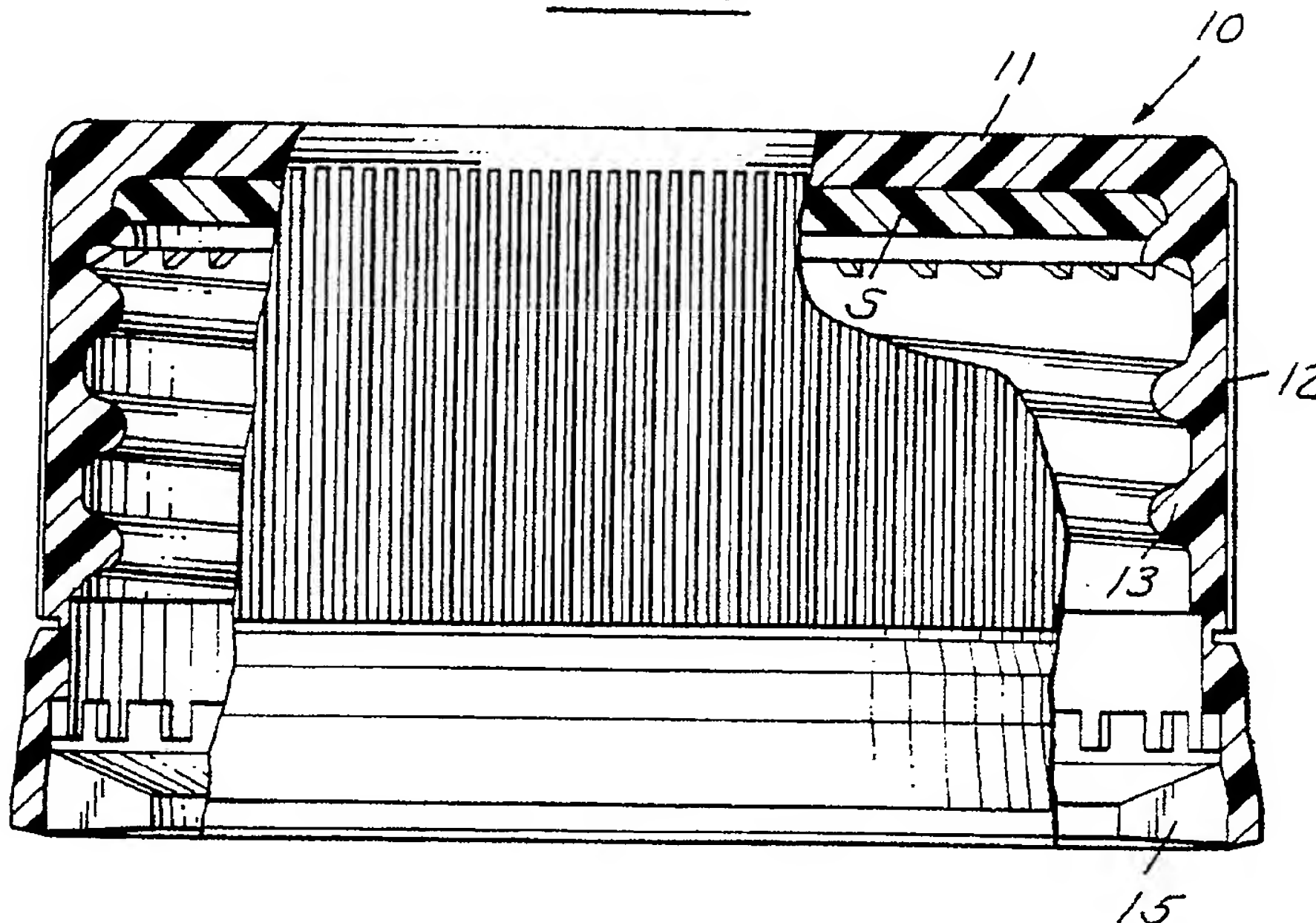
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54 **Plastic closure with compression molded sealing liner.**

57 A plastic closure (10) comprising a base wall (11), a peripheral skirt (12), means (13) on said skirt adapted to attach the closure to a container (C), and a sealing liner (S) compression molded in situ on the interior of the base wall (11) of the closure, said sealing liner (S) comprising a blend of an ethylene vinyl acetate composition and a thermoplastic elastomeric composition.

FIG.2



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This invention relates to compression molded plastic closures and particular compression molded plastic closures having compression molded liners therein.

5 Background and Summary of the Invention

Plastic closures have been commonly made by injection molding or compression molding. In plastic closures made by compression molding as shown, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,210,805, 4,434,754, and 4,418,828, incorporated herein by reference, it is also common to compression mold a sealing liner in place in the closure after the closure has been formed. Such sealing liners may comprise polyvinyl chloride plastic or thermoplastic elastomeric composition. Polyvinyl chloride has a tendency to overheat during extrusion and further has inherent problems because of the removal torque when the sealing liner is used on a PET container. Thermoplastic polymeric compositions are more expensive, more difficult to produce in that the compounding necessary results in inconsistent quality and consistency. Furthermore, such compositions produce problems of torque removal on glass containers. United States patents 4,807,772, 15 and 4,846,362 disclose a compression molded liner being made of a blend of polyethylene or polypropylene and thermoplastic elastomeric copolymer so that the liner is removable.

As a result of the problems with both types of compositions, it has been necessary for a user to maintain costly inventories of closures with both types of sealing liners in order to accommodate use with both plastic and glass containers.

In order to produce a satisfactory sealing liner that would be applicable to both plastic and glass containers, it must be necessary to not only formulate the composition but also consistently extrude and cut off charges of the composition for compression molding in apparatus such as shown, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,955,605, 4,080,136 and 4,277,431. The closure must also match other closure requirements including satisfactory removal torques, carbonation retention, carbonation retention under top load and satisfactory functioning on a container when cycled through environmental changes of temperature and humidity.

Accordingly, among the objectives of the present invention are to provide a compression molded plastic closure having a compression molded sealing liner which will overcome the problems inherent in the prior sealing liners; which will operate satisfactorily on both plastic and glass containers; which is relatively lower in cost; and which can be readily processed and meet the requirements for a satisfactory closure.

Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of a closure embodying the invention.

FIG. 2 is a sectional view of the closure embodying the invention.

Description

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the plastic closure 10 of suitable material such as polypropylene embodying the invention comprises a base wall 11, a peripheral skirt 12 having internal threads 13 for engagement with complementary threads on a container C and a sealing liner S in the form of an annular shape at the juncture of the base wall 11 and peripheral skirt 12. The closure may include tamper indicating means 15 such as shown, for example, in U.S. Patents 4,418,828, 4,613,052 and 4,653,657.

In accordance with the invention, the sealing liner comprises a composition of a blend of ethylene vinyl acetate composition and a thermoplastic elastomeric composition.

The ethylene vinyl acetate composition comprises polyethylene as the major constituent and vinyl acetate and optionally includes antioxidants and pigments. The thermoplastic elastomeric composition preferably comprises polypropylene or polyolefin as a major constituent and styrene-butadiene-styrene and optionally includes antioxidants and pigments.

The ethylene vinyl acetate composition may have the composition within about the following ranges, by weight:

Polyethylene	85% to 91%
Vinyl acetate	9% to 15%

The thermoplastic elastomeric composition may have the following composition:

5	Polypropylene or polyolefin	20% to 60%
	Styrene butadiene styrene	40% to 80%

A preferred composition of the ethylene vinyl acetate composition comprises:

10	Polyethylene	88%
	Vinyl acetate	12%

The amount of antioxidant lubricants and colorants may be used as required. Antioxidant are normally added to facilitate regrind and reuse of the plastic. Lubricants are adhered to be used as release agents in molding the plastic closure.

Excellent results have been achieved in tests wherein the percentage of ethylene vinyl acetate composition and percentage of thermoplastic elastomeric composition comprise 80%-20%; 75%-25%; and 70%-30%. It has been found that compositions made in accordance with the invention can be consistently extruded, cut and compression molded in a plastic closure. It has been further found that the sealing liner in such a closure satisfactorily provides a seal with optimal removal torque characteristics on both plastic and glass containers.

Satisfactory results have been achieved in meeting closure requirements including satisfactory removal torques, carbonation retention, carbonation retention under top load and satisfactory functioning on a container when cycled through environmental changes of temperature and humidity.

It can thus be seen that there has been provided a compression molded sealing liner which will overcome the problems inherent in the prior sealing liners; which will operate satisfactorily on both plastic and glass containers; which is relatively lower in cost; and which can be readily processed and meet the requirements for a satisfactory closure.

Claims

1. A plastic closure comprising
a base wall, a peripheral skirt, means on said skirt adapted to attach the closure to a container, and
a sealing liner compression molded in situ on the interior of the base wall of the closure, said sealing liner comprising a blend of an ethylene vinyl acetate composition and a thermoplastic elastomeric composition,
said ethylene vinyl acetate composition comprises the major constituent of the liner.
2. The closure set forth in claim 1 wherein the ethylene vinyl acetate composition comprises at least 70% of the liner composition.
3. The closure set forth in claim 2 wherein said ethylene vinyl acetate composition comprises polyethylene as the major constituent and vinyl acetate.
4. The closure set forth in claim 3 wherein said vinyl acetate comprises 9-15% of the ethylene vinyl acetate composition.
5. The closure set forth in claim 4 wherein the vinyl acetate comprises 12% of the ethylene vinyl acetate composition.
6. The closure set forth in claim 1 wherein the ethylene vinyl acetate composition comprises about 70% to 80% and the thermoplastic elastomeric composition comprises 20% to 30%.
7. The closure set forth in any of claims 1-6 wherein said thermoplastic elastomeric composition comprises an olefin and styrene butadiene styrene.
8. The closure set forth in any of claims 1-6 wherein said ethylene vinyl acetate composition and said thermoplastic olefin composition comprise antioxidants and coloring pigments.

FIG.1

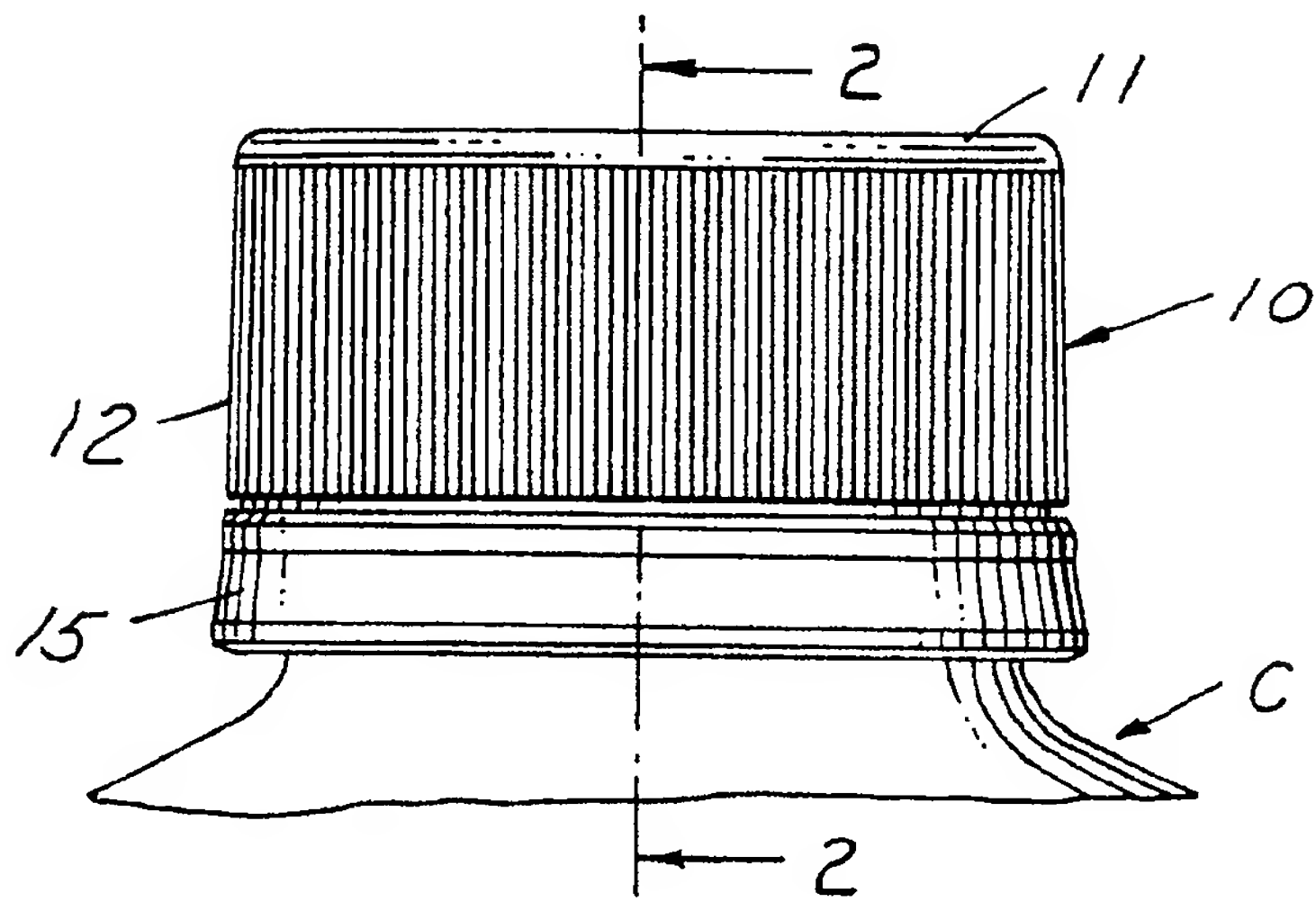
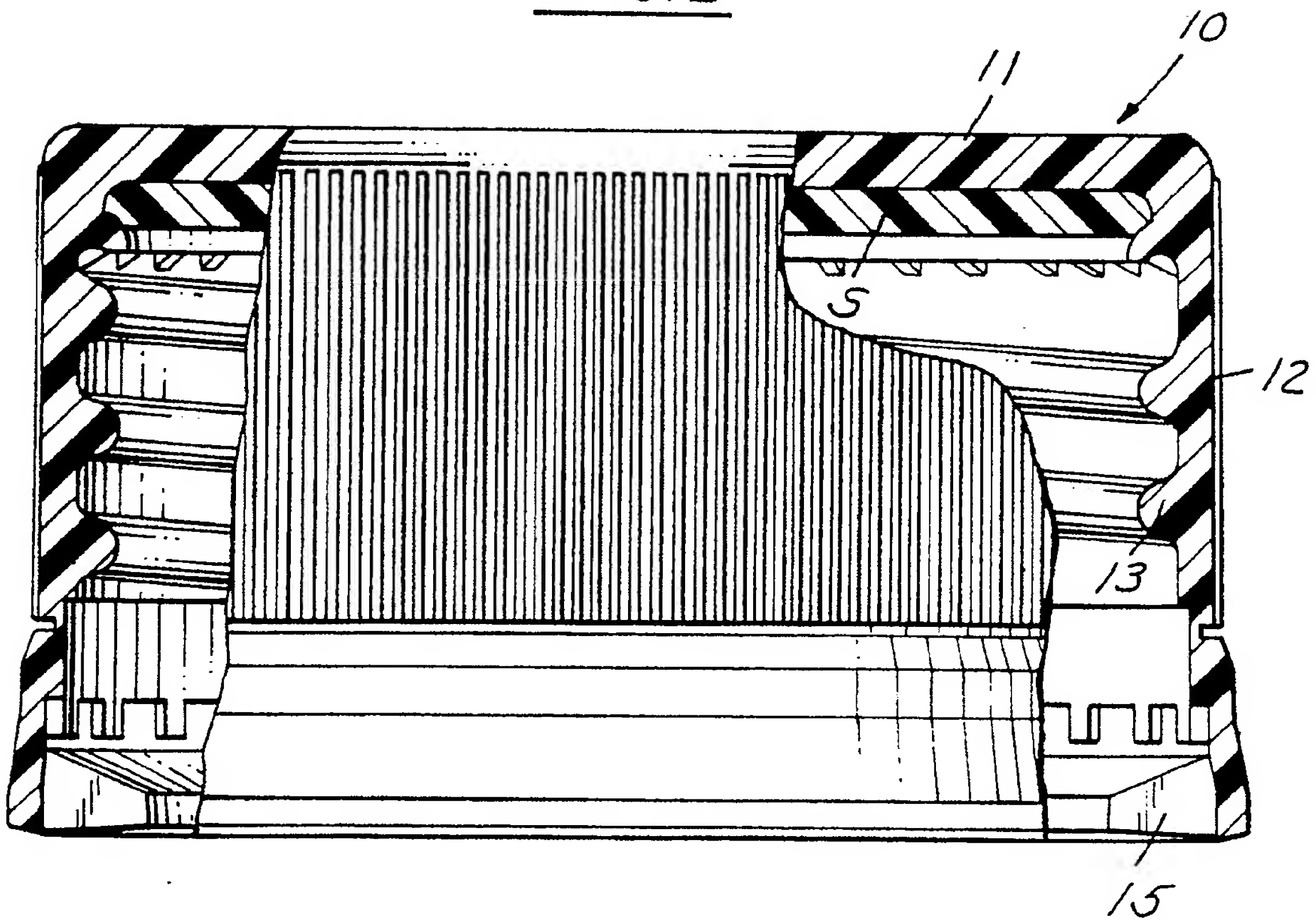


FIG.2





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 31 0077

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	US-A-4721221 (BARRIAC) * column 4, lines 15 - 35; figure 1 * * column 4, line 60 - column 5, line 7 * ---	1	B65D41/00
A	US-A-4378893 (WILDE ET AL.) * column 2, lines 52 - 64 * * column 5, lines 38 - 42; figure 6 * ---	1	
D,A	US-A-4807772 (SCHLOSS) * claim 1; figure 1 * ---	1	
A	EP-A-0205914 (W.R. GRACE & CO.) * page 1, paragraphs 1 - 2 * * page 5, lines 17 - 22 * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B65D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 17 DECEMBER 1990	Examiner SPETTEL, J.D.M.L.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document I : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			